



San Luis II Commercial Port of Entry Celebration & ADOT Safety Inspection Station

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Thursday, December 9, 2010

Thank you, and thank you all for joining us as we celebrate a NEW chapter in Arizona's history – the inauguration of the San Luis II Port of Entry & the Arizona Department of Transportation Safety Inspection Facility.

This is a great accomplishment for the state of Arizona and for the border region.

It is the first new commercial port of entry built between Arizona and Mexico in the last 30 years, and only the second one built in the last ten years along the U.S. – Mexico border region.

This achievement will invigorate the region's economy, enticing investment within the manufacturing and produce sectors, as well as business opportunities that are destined to create jobs in the Arizona -- Sonora region.

The substantial investment into the region -- totaling over one hundred and fifty million dollars -- just on the Arizona side -- began with the Robert A. Vaughan Expressway and culminates with this impressive commercial operation that we commemorate today.

The Arizona investment also includes a new safety inspection station for the Arizona Department of Transportation.

This allows ADOT to quickly and efficiently inspect trucks for weight and safety compliance and ensures that all of the trucks crossing the border meet our safety standards – a critical service for all Arizona drivers.

Additionally, through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund – created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act -- approximately three point seven

nine million dollars of investment was awarded for security, rural development, and education throughout the San Luis and Yuma area that will help this region create jobs and become more globally competitive.

These investments facilitate trade and commerce, and also supply state of the art technology that help better secure our borders, our state and our nation.

Lawful commerce through ALL our ports of entry is critical to our Arizona-Sonora regional economy – and enhancing this port's infrastructure is key to ensuring that time-sensitive products can flow across the border safely, quickly, efficiently.

It's during these tough economic times, that we all need to refocus our priorities and concentrate our efforts on projects that contribute to Arizona's economic recovery.

Port of entry projects are particularly complex because they involve several federal agencies, the Office of the Governor, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the local community – and willing partners in Mexico. The level of cooperation and coordination is quite significant.

We would not be here celebrating these accomplishments today without the cooperation and dedication of local, tribal, state, and federal stakeholders, and groups such as the Greater Yuma Port Authority, Arizona-Mexico Commission, the Department of Transportation and all of you here today.

San Luis II is proof-positive that we can work together to initiate and complete these important infrastructure projects vital to the Arizona's economy and security.

However, our job is not yet done.

Work has already begun for the design phase of a replacement for the existing San Luis I port.

If you drive right down the road from here and look at the old existing port in downtown San Luis, you will be amazed that it functions at all with such outdated and crowded facilities.

It is vital that the construction phase of this project move forward, as improvements to Arizona's port projects are critical to the state's economic prosperity and our nation's security.

So, let's celebrate this major accomplishment and continue to work together to create a bright future in the border region.

Thank You.